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ABSTRACT

This booklet was prepared as a point of reference for the delegates to the White House Conference to familiarize them with the meanings of library and information science related acronyms and terms. The first of three sections of the booklet provides a list of selected acronyms and their meanings. A glossary of selected terms related to library and information services is presented in the second section, and the third includes a list of the types of libraries and information facilities to be found in the United States. (MAB)

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The White House Conference on Library and Information Services

July 1991

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Delegate Education Materials

- Acronyms
- Glossary
- Types of facilities

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Dear Delegate/Alternate:

As you prepared for your state preconference, you were introduced to many acronyms and terms related to library and information services. As the official delegate, or alternate, for your state you will be receiving materials to prepare you for deliberation and discussion of issues during the White House Conference. These materials no doubt will contain acronyms and terms with which you are not familiar. To assist you we have developed, for reference purposes, this booklet containing a list of selected acronyms, a glossary of selected terms related to library and information services and a list of types of libraries and information facilities.

It will help you to keep this document handy at all times when you are reading background and context materials that you will receive. Don't forget, you can always contact your nearest library for additional assistance if you encounter a term in your reading not covered in this document. Remember, to participate fully in the working sessions during the Conference it is to your best interest to be knowledgeable.

Our warmest regards upon your appointment to serve as delegate or alternate to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. If you have questions, we are as near as your telephone. Call us at 1-800-942-5472.

The White House Conference Staff

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

A&I	- Abstracting and Indexing
AAAS	- American Association for the Advancement of Science
AALL	- American Association of Law Libraries
AAP	- Association of American Publishers
AASL	- American Association of School Librarians *
AAUP	- Association of American University Presses
ABA	- American Booksellers Association
ABC	- American Bibliographic Center
ACE	- American Council on Education
ACLS	- American Council of Learned Societies
ACRL	- Association of College and Research Libraries *
ACS	- American Chemical Society
ADAPSO	- Association of Data Processing Service Organizations
ADONIS	- Article Delivery Over Network Information Systems
ADP	- Automatic Data Processing
AECT	- Association for Educational Communications and Technology
AFFIRM	- Association for Federal Information Resources Management
AFIPS	- American Federation of Information Processing Societies
AGRICOLA	- Agriculture On-line Access
AIM	- Associated Information Managers
AIRS	- Alliance for Information Referral Services
ALA	- American Library Association
ALCTS	- Association for Library Collections & Technical Services *
ALISE	- Association for Library and Information Science Education
ALSC	- Association for Library Service to Children *
ALTA	- American Library Trustee Association *
AMIGOS	- Access Method for Indexed Data Generalized for Operating System (a library network in the Southwest)
ANSI	- American National Standards Institute
AOA	- Administration on Aging
APALA	- Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association
ARL	- Association of Research Libraries
ARMA	- Association of Records Managers and Administrators
ASCLA	- Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies *
ASI	- American Society of Indexers
ASIDIC	- Association of Information and Dissemination Centers
ASIS	- American Society for Information Science
BCR	- Bibliographical Center for Research
BIA	- Bureau of Indian Affairs
BIBNET	- Bibliographic Network (Law Library Association)

* A division of the American Library Association
** A Round Table of the American Library Association

BITNET	- Because Its Time Network (An international education telecommunications network)
BLAISE	- British Library Automated Information System
BLLD	- British Library Lending Division
CALA	- Chinese-American Librarians Association
CAPCON	- Capitol Consortium Network (Consortium of Universities of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area)
CAPTAIN	- Computer-Aided Processing and Terminal Access Information Network
CAS	- Chemical Abstracts Service
CATV	- Community Antenna Television (cable television)
CBEMA	- Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers Association
CCC	- Copyright Clearance Center
CCSSO	- Council of Chief State School Officers
CCLN	- Council for Computerized Library Networks
CD/I	- Compact Disc/Interactive
CD-ROM	- Compact Disc-Read Only Memory
CE	- Continuing Education
CI&R	- Community Information and Referral
CIS	- Congressional Information Service
CLA	- Catholic Library Association
CLASS	- Cooperative Library Agency for Systems and Services
CLENERT	- Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table **
CLR	- Council on Library Resources, Inc.
CNLIA	- Council of National Library and Information Associations
COLONET	- Colorado Library Network
COLT	- Council on Library/Media Technicians
COM	- Computer output microfilm
CONSER	- Conversion of Serials
COSATI	- Committee on Scientific and Technical Information
COSLA	- Chief Officers of State Library Agencies
CRL	- Center for Research Libraries
CRS	- Congressional Research Service
CRT	- Cathode Ray Terminal (computer monitor screen)
DOE/OSTI	- Department of Energy - Office of Scientific and Technical Information
DOE/TIC	- Department of Energy - Technical Information Center
DOI	- Department of the Interior
DOT	- Department of the Transportation
DTIC	- Defense Technical Information Center
ECIA	- Education Consolidation and Improvement Act
ECS	- Education Commission of the States
ED	- Department of Education
EDP	- Electronic Data Processing
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency
ERIC	- Educational Resources Information Center
ESEA	- Elementary and Secondary Education Act
EURONET	- Western European Network
FCC	- Federal Communications Committee

FEDLINK	- Federal Library and Information Network
FID	- Federation Internationale de Documentation
FIM	- Federal Information Managers
FLICC	- Federal Library and Information Center Committee
FOIA	- Freedom of Information Act
FOLUSA	- Friends of Libraries USA
FPC	- Federal Publishers Committee
FR	- Federal Register
FTC	- Federal Trade Commission
FY	- Fiscal Year
GAO	- Government Accounting Office
GODORT	- Government Documents Roundtable (ALA)
GPO	- Government Printing Office
GSA	- General Services Administration
GTR	- Government Transportation Request
HEA	- Higher Education Act
HHS	- Department of Health and Human Services
HUD	- Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICSTI	- International Committee Scientific and Technical Information
IFLA	- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
IIA	- Information Industry Association
ILL	- InterLibrary Loan
ILLINET	- Illinois Library and Information Network
INCOLSA	- Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority
IRM	- Information Resources Management
ISI	- Institute for Scientific Information
ISO	- International Standards Organization
JCP	- Joint Committee on Printing
LAMA	- Library Administration and Management Association *
LC	- Library of Congress
LITA	- Library and Information Technology Association *
LSCA	- Library Services and Construction Act
MARC	- Machine Readable Catalog
MEDLARS	- Medical Library Analysis and Retrieval System
MEDLINE	- MEDLARS On-line
MIDLNET	- Midwest Region Library Network
MINE	- Montana Information Network and Exchange
MINITEX	- Minnesota Interlibrary Telecommunications Exchange
MLA	- Medical Library Association; Music Library Association
NCA	- Network Advisory Committee
NAGARA	- National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators
NAL	- National Agricultural Library
NARA	- National Archives and Records Administration
NASA	- National Aeronautics and Space Agency
NCES	- National Center for Education Statistics
NCLIS	- National Commission on Libraries and Information Science
NEA	- National Endowment for the Arts

NEH – National Endowment for the Humanities
NELINET – New England Library Information Network
NFAIS – National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services
NISO – National Information Standards Organization
NLM – National Library of Medicine
NLW – National Library Week
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSF – National Science Foundation
NREN – National Research and Education Network
NTIA – National Telecommunications and Information Administration
NTIS – National Technical Information Service
OCLC – Online Computer Library Center, Inc.
OERI – Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED)
OHIONET – Ohio Network
OSI – Open Systems Interconnection
OSTP – Office of Science and Technology Policy (Office of the President)
OTA – Office of Technology Assessment
PALINET – Pennsylvania Area Library Network
PLA – Public Library Association *
PRLC – Pittsburgh Regional Library Center
RAM – Random Access Memory
RASD – Reference and Adult Services Division *
R&D – Research and Development
RC – Register of Copyrights
RLG – Research Libraries Group, Inc.
RLIN – Research Libraries Information Network
ROM – Read-Only Memory
SAA – Society of American Archivists
SBA – Small Business Administration
SLA – Special Libraries Association
SOLINET – Southeastern Library Network
SSP – Society for Scholarly Publishing
ULC – Urban Libraries Council
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VILINET – Virgin Islands Library and Information Network
WHCLIS – White House Conference on Library and Information Services
WHCLIST – White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce
WLN – Western Library Network
YASD – Young Adults Services Division *

GLOSSARY OF SELECTED LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RELATED TERMS

Abstract:	brief summary of a complete document. ***See also*** full text.
Access:	used as a verb or noun to indicate gaining entry to a library collection or information system for the purpose of retrieving specific documents or information.
Acronym:	a word formed from the initial letter or letters of each word or major word in a compound term. ***See your brochure of acronyms.***
Acquisition:	the process of obtaining library materials by purchase, exchange or gift.
Archivist:	a person who has care of the archives and also makes them available, under proper safeguards, to historians and researchers.
Audiovisual:	non-print materials such as films, film-strips, sound tapes, videotapes and other media.
Automation:	the use of automatic data processing equipment, such as microcomputers, to accomplish work intensive tasks that were once done manually.
Bar-code:	a graphic code arranged in a series of parallel lines or bars, representing data that is interpreted by a scanner into digital signals for storage in a computer. See also ***light pen.***
Bibliographic control:	an orderly listing of materials so they can be identified and found readily, usually by author, title, subject or some other key word or identifying number.
Bibliographic database:	a database containing descriptive records about published documents (books, articles, reports, recordings).
Bibliographic item:	a uniquely identified work or part of a work.
Bibliographic utility:	an organization that maintains online bibliographic data bases as the basis for providing information products and services to libraries and other clients.
Bill:	a draft of proposed legislation.

Sources for terms and definitions include the glossary prepared for the 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services, ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science, Dictionary of Information Technology 2nd ed., Dictionary of New Information Technology, Draft Revised Library Statistics Standard (Z39.7 - 199x) and glossaries prepared by states for their preconference activities.

Block Grant: grants made directly to States in accordance with a formula based on the number of persons to be served or on the amount of Federal or State money available. In State-administered grants, the State itself is the grantee and may award grants to subgrantees on either a discretionary or formula basis.

Bookmobile: usually a van, bus or truck equipped to carry books and other library materials and serves as a traveling branch library.

Cable television: also called CATV (community antenna television) and originally used to improve television reception in outlying areas. The cable carrying the television signal has a vast information-carrying capacity and can be used for other purposes besides transmitting the television signal. Cable offers the potential for home TV owners to call up services such as news, financial, computer-aided learning, information retrieval from databases and information from a broadcasting source, perhaps a library, on demand.

Capital expenditures: funds expended for the acquisition of or additions to fixed assets such as building sites, new building additions, new equipment (including major computer installations), **initial** book stock, furnishings for new or expanded buildings and new vehicles. This excludes replacement and repair of existing furnishings and equipment, regular purchase of library materials and investments for capital appreciation.

Card catalog: a file in which bibliographic records are on separate cards arranged in a desired order--author, title, subject--in card trays.

Categorical grants: formula grants earmarked for certain types of libraries and required by law to go to those libraries.

CD-ROM (compact disk-read only memory) a 4.75 inch optical memory storage disk which can be read only, not erased or updated like a floppy disk or tape.

Classified material: memoranda, reports and other documents emanating from government departments, industrial and other corporations, research associations, etc., which are of a secret and confidential nature. They are classified as 'top secret', 'secret', 'confidential' and 'restricted' in descending order of secrecy and are treated variously in libraries. Also called classified information.

Clearinghouse: an organization that collects and maintains information in a specialized area, monitors research and development in relevant fields, and provides referral to other relevant information sources.

Common carrier: a telecommunications company that is regulated by an appropriate government agency and that offers communications services to the general public such as a telephone company.

Community profile: a formal assessment of the area served by the library in order to better target services to the people to be served.

Computer: an electronic machine that stores data entered from an external source, manipulates that data according to instructions in computer programs, and supplies results on paper, video display or some electronic storage medium such as magnetic tape.

Connect time: each hour or fraction of an hour that a subscriber is connected to a remote database.

Computer-output-microfilm catalog (COM): a record of library holdings produced by computer on microfilm or microfiche. The catalog can be updated regularly and is inexpensive to produce in multiple copies to be placed in several locations such as branch libraries.

Conservation: refers to the techniques and procedures relating to the treatment of books and other documents to maintain as much as possible or feasible the original physical integrity of the object or artifact. *See* Preservation.

Copyright: the exclusive privilege of publishing, selling and reproducing a work, provided by a government to an author, composer, artist or publisher.

Database: an organized collection of interrelated information, usually stored in a computer. Synonymous with databank.

Database management: the control processes for the formatting, inputting, storing, retrieving, modifying and outputting of data in large data files.

Deacidification: any of a number of processes used to change the chemical balance of paper from acidic to alkaline. The alkaline balance provides a buffer against continued deterioration of the paper.

Discretionary grants: grants awarded on a competitive basis.

Document retrieval: the process of acquiring a complete copy of a relevant document (rather than a citation to the document) from a collection of documents.

Documentation: the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of documents.

Education and job information centers: also called EICs. A public service unit in a library system that provides job and career information and information and resources in support of adult continuing education.

Educational technology: a complex, integrated process involving people, procedures, ideas, devices and organization, for analyzing problems, and devising, implementing, evaluating and managing solutions to those problems, involved in all aspects of human learning. (Association for Educational Communications and Technology) Compare with *instructional technology*.

Electronic mail: messages sent and received using computers and electronic communications channels. Messages are stored until such time as they are read by addressee. Speed of transmission is greatly increased over the

time required to physically transfer messages on paper from one location to another. Also called e-mail.

Facsimile transmission: sending text or images from one point to another by electronic means. Also called "fax."

Fair use: conditions under which document reproduction is allowable under copyright law.

Full text: the machine-readable representation of the complete text of a document.

Gateways: connections that provide computer users access to a number of information services when they dial a single telephone number.

Government documents: publications in book, serial or other form that are published by a government agency, e.g., the publications of federal, state, local and foreign governments and of intergovernmental organizations to which governments belong and appoint representatives, such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Hard copy: usually, paper copy which does not require magnification or a mechanical reader.

Hardware: the electronic, electrical, mechanical, or other physical equipment used for the projection and playback of audiovisual materials, or for the input, processing and output of computerized information.

Hit: unique records located and retrieved by an online search.

Information and referral service: an information service, often provided by a library, by which the user is provided either with direct answers to questions, or with names of other agencies which will assist in the user's search. This is done frequently in social service areas such as alcohol counseling, drug abuse, literacy, food stamp information, aging problems, etc.

Information broker: an individual or organization who, on demand and for a fee, provides information directly to individuals and organizations.

Information industry: those businesses and organizations whose primary function is creating, storing, processing, distributing or using information.

Information literacy: the essential ability to recognize when there is a need for information and to locate, evaluate and use that information effectively to address the problem or issues at hand. Information-literate people are those who have learned how to learn.

Information professional: a person whose primary full-time job functions involve the creation, storing,processing, distribution or use of information.

Information resources management (IRM): the practice of organizing, cataloging, locating, storing, retrieving and maintaining information that is created within an organization.

Information retrieval services:	organizations that provide computer systems for automatic recovery of information from one or more databases.
Information scientist:	an individual trained in the creation, use, and management of information, usually with an emphasis on the processes of acquiring, storing and retrieving information rather than on its content.
Information technology:	the application of computers and other technology to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information.
Instructional technology:	a complex, integrated process involving people, procedures, ideas, devices, organization, for analyzing problems and devising, implementing, evaluating, and managing solutions to those problems, in situations in which learning is purposive and controlled. (Association for Educational Communications and Technology) Compare with educational technology.
Integrated services digital network system:	the communications system that uses ordinary copper twisted-pair telephone wires to carry a simultaneous mix of voice, computer and video signals. Referred to as ISDN.
Interlibrary cooperation	where two or more libraries agree to share materials, staff, or facilities in an attempt to improve their individual library's services.
Interlibrary loan:	a transaction in which library material or photocopies of material are loaned by one library to another upon request. It includes both lending and borrowing. The libraries involved are not under the same administration or on the same campus.
Librarian:	a person who does work that requires professional training and skill in the theoretical or scientific aspect of library work, or both, as distinct from its mechanical or clerical aspect.
Library technician, in technical assistant, media technician:	a library support staff member trained in a two-year associate program library technology. Sometimes referred to as LTA.
Light pen:	a hand-held laser device used to directly input information into a computer by passing the pen over data to be transmitted.
Machine-readable cataloging:	an international, standardized communications format developed by the Library of Congress for producing and distributing machine-readable bibliographic records on magnetic tape. Also called MARC.
Microform:	a generic term for photographic reproduction of textual, tabular or graphic material reduced in size so that it can be used only with magnification. Includes microfilm, aperture cards, microfiche and ultrafiche.
National Library Week:	a week in April set aside for special public relations programs and activities promoting support for all types of libraries and library services.

Network: two or more organizations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange through telecommunications links, for some common objectives.

Network security: the measures taken to protect a network's equipment, communications and files from unauthorized access, accidental or willful interference, and damage or destruction.

Online catalog: a catalog of bibliographic records in machine-readable form, maintained in a computer system and permitting interactive access through terminals that are in direct and continuing communication with the computer for the duration of the transaction.

Online public access catalog: a computer-based and supported library catalog designed to be accessed via terminals so that library users may directly search for and retrieve bibliographic records. Referred to as OPAC.

Online retrieval services: the process by which a user at a remote terminal accesses a host computer containing one or more databases of bibliographical information or source data.

Operating expenditure: current and recurrent costs necessary to the provision of library services, such as personnel, library materials, binding, supplies, repair or replacement of existing furnishings and equipment, and costs incurred in the operation and maintenance of the physical facility.

Optical fiber: a very thin flexible strand of pure glass that can transmit signals using beams of light. The fibers can carry thousands of times more information than traditional copper wire, thereby reducing the cost of long-distance communications.

Optical scanner: a device for optically reading or scanning text or images and translating them into digital signals for input into a computer or other device.

Outreach program: a library public service program initiated, designed and aggressively pursued to meet the information needs of an unserved or inadequately served target group, such as the institutionalized, the elderly, the disadvantaged or non-users.

Paraprofessional: those library employees without professional certification or entrance-level educational requirements who are assigned supportive responsibilities at a high level and commonly perform their duties with some supervision by a professional staff member.

Population of legal service area: the number of people in the geographical area for which a library has been established to offer services and from which (or on behalf of which) the library derives income. It includes any areas served under contract for which the library is the primary service provider.

Preservation: the activities associated with maintaining library and archival materials for use, either in their original physical form or in some other way that maintains the intellectual content of the original. *see also* Conservation.

Public access channel:	a channel in a cable communication system on which any member of the general public may distribute programming.
Records:	the complete machine-readable representations of a single article, story, or report including all fields containing data primarily associated with the document being represented.
Resource sharing:	a means by which information and/or materials in one library are made available to users of another library. Could also involve the sharing of library processing services and the computer facilities, programs and telecommunications to provide these services.
Special librarian:	a professional trained in library/information science who has combined that knowledge with another discipline. For example, special librarians working in business and finance may hold a Masters in Business Administration. Law librarians frequently have law degrees. Art librarians have combined library education with degrees in the fine arts.
Teletext:	the one-way transmission, via television, of pages of perishable information to viewers who have TV receivers equipped with decoders (so they can display the data transmitted) and keypads with which to select specific pages from among the 100 or so normally available. The teletext pages are usually sent via unused lines in the vertical blanking interval (vbi) of a regular broadcasts signal, but can also be fed via the vbi of a cable signal. All the viewer can do is receive the transmitted pages of information; the choice of which page(s) to watch is the only interaction the user has with the technology. Compare with *videotex*.
Terminal:	an instrument with a typewriter-like keyboard which allows a person to interact with a computer by entering data or requesting information from the computer's database.
Trustee:	a member of the governing body of a public or academic library.
Union catalog:	a consolidated listing of books, periodicals, or other materials held by more than one library, showing the location of each item.
Value-added information:	enhancements to basic source material that enable a user to better understand or use the material, such as indexing on a CD-ROM.
Video display terminal:	a computer terminal that displays information on a television-like screen.
Videodisk:	a medium of information storage resembling a long-playing record upon which video, audio and data signals may be encoded for playback on a video monitor.

Videotex: the fully interactive, two–way transmission of information and transactional services via cable, phone lines, or a combination of the two. It allows users equipped with personal computers, or with television sets that have special converters, to access a virtually unlimited store of information from the database of the particular videotex service. It also permits such interactions as purchasing goods or playing games. Compare with *teletext*.

TYPES OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION FACILITIES

The following list of types of libraries and information facilities is **for informational purposes only**, to be used as part of the delegate preparation process for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, 1991. The list--though not exhaustive as there are information facilities that may operate under different names--is intended to provide you with a sense of the range of the types of libraries and information facilities to be found in the United States.

Academic Library — a library associated with an institution of higher learning (from junior or community colleges to post-graduate institutions) organized and administered to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff; see also **College Library, Department Library, Division Library, Graduate Library, Law Library, Medical Library, Research Library, Science Library, Undergraduate Library and University Library**.

Archive — a facility dedicated to the storage, preservation and accessibility of documents, noncurrent records or other materials with continuing value; see also **Records Center** and **Repository**.

Art Library — a special library focusing on art information; see also **Special Library**.

Branch Library — an auxiliary library service outlet of a public, regional or county library physically separate from the main facility with no less than a permanent basic collection of materials, a permanent paid staff and an established service schedule; see also **Public Library**.

Business Library — a special library focusing on business information, may be located in a company with limited accessibility or may be called a **Business Branch** if part of the public library system but located in a commercial or financial district and providing primarily business information services; see also **Special Library**.

Central Library use **General Library**

Clearinghouse — a facility dedicated to the collecting, storing and distribution of documents or other materials; may also provide referral services.

College Library — an academic library with a focus on undergraduate studies materials (not a pure distinction, may also include graduate, professional, and/or post-graduate materials), or may be associated with a particular college within a university; see also **Academic Library, Department Library, Division Library, Undergraduate Library and University Library**.

County Library — a general purpose library supported by public funds with a county-wide service area; see also **Multicounty Library, Public Library and Regional Library**; use for **Parish Library**.

Departmental Library — a separate library in an academic library system serving the information needs of a particular department; see also **Academic Library, College Library, Division Library, Undergraduate Library and University Library**.

Depository, use **Repository**.

Division Library — a separate library in an academic library system serving the information needs of a particular division or group of related departments; see also **Academic Library, College Library, Department Library, Undergraduate Library and University Library**.

Film Library — A special library maintaining and circulating a collection of 8, 16, 35, and/or 70–mm motion picture films; see also **Special Library**.

General Library — a library without a particular subject specialty, may be the central library of an academic, public or other library system; use for **Central Library and Main Library**.

Government Library — a library in a government department or office specializing in subjects related to the mission of the parent agency and providing information support to agency operations.

Graduate Library — an academic library housing major research collections and serving graduate students and faculty; see also **Academic Library, Research Library, Undergraduate Library, and University Library**.

Health Sciences Library, use **Medical Library**.

Hospital Library, use **Medical Library**.

Hotline — a telephone–based service providing reference information and referrals in a limited subject area; see also **Information and Referral Center**.

Information and Referral Center — a facility providing primarily reference information and referrals in a limited subject area; see also **Hotline**.

Information Center — a facility providing many of the same types of services as a library but with a specific subject or topic focus; often synonymous with **Special Library**; see also **Technical Information Center**.

Institutional Library — a library maintained within a public or private institution, i.e., correctional institution or institution for the care of the mentally ill; use for **Prison Library**.

Law Library — a special library focusing on legal and legislative information, often found in law schools and large law firms; see also **Academic Library** and **Special Library**.

Learning Resource Center, use **School Library Media Center**.

Library — an entity that provides all of the following: a) an organized collection of printed or other library materials, or a combination thereof; b) a staff to provide and interpret such materials as required to meet the informational, cultural, recreational and educational needs of a clientele; c) an established schedule by which services of the staff are available to clientele; and d) the facilities necessary to support such a collection, staff and schedule.

Library Consortium — a formal, cooperating group of libraries and/or information centers, often restricted by geographic area, number or type of libraries or subject interest, engaged in resource sharing, service sharing, distributed subject specializations, or other activities; see also **Library Network**.

Library Network — a formal group of libraries and/or information centers linked together by agreement, and often electronically, to serve a common purpose, often employing the use of computers and telecommunication with a central office and dedicated staff; see also **Library Consortium**.

Main Library use **General Library**

Medical Library — a special library focusing on medical arts and allied health sciences information, often found in medical schools, hospitals, and large medical practices; see also **Academic Library** and **Special Library**; use for **Health Sciences Library** and **Hospital Library**.

Multicounty Library — a general purpose library established by joint agreement of the governing bodies several counties to serve that venue and supported by public funds; see also **County Library, Public Library and Regional Library**.

Municipal Library, use **Public Library**.

Museum Library — a special library focusing on subjects congruent with the mission of the museum; see also **Special Library**.

Music Library — a special library focusing on music and musical performance information; see also **Special Library**.

National Library — a library designated by a national government as its national library and supported by national funds.

Parish Library — term used in Louisiana only. see **County Library**

Patients' Library — a library serving the recreational and therapeutic information needs of patients and set within a hospital or other institution providing inpatient care.

Prison Library, use **Institution Library**.

Private Library — a library not supported by public taxation; may belong to an individual or cooperative group; see also **Proprietary Library** and **Subscription Library**.

Proprietary Library — a private library accessible only to shareholders with its capital held in a common fund as joint stock; shareholders may sell or transfer their share independently; see also **Private Library** and **Subscriber Library**.

Public Library — a library that serves all residents of a given community, district or region, and (typically) receives its financial support, in whole or in part, from public funds. Public libraries make their basic collections and services available to the population of their legal service area without charge to individual users. Products and services beyond the library's basic services may or may not be provided to the public, with or without individual charges. Individual charges may be assessed from library users outside the legal service area of the library. In addition to the tax–supported municipal, county and regional public libraries, this definition includes privately and federally controlled libraries which render, without charge, general library services to the community. The public library is governed by a single board of trustees or other authority, and is administered by a single director. Examples of public libraries include: 1) the city library with its branches and 2) the county, multicounty or regional library with outlets functioning as branches. Use for **Municipal Library** and **Township Library**.

Records Center — a facility for the storage and retrieval of semi-current and noncurrent records pending their ultimate disposition; see also **Archive** and **Repository**.

Reference Library — a library with a non-circulating collection intended for consultation and research; may be associated with an academic library, public library or special library.

Referral Center — an information agency that provides referrals for information or documents to appropriate libraries, clearinghouses, information centers and other information sources.

Regional Library — a general purpose library supported by public funds with a region-wide venue, may be in consortia with other libraries in the area; see also **County Library, Multicounty Library and Public Library**.

Rental Library — a commercial operation maintaining a selected collection of materials and circulating them for a fee.

Repository — a facility dedicated to the storage, preservation and accessibility of documents or other materials from specified sources, e.g., Federal depository library containing Federal government documents; see also **Archive** and **Records Center**.

Research Library — a special library with an in-depth collection including primary sources and focuses on supporting scholars and researchers, often within a subject area; may be associated with an academic library or a special library; see also **Academic Library, Graduate Library and Special Library**.

School Branch Library — a library in a school building administered by the public library system for the students, teachers and staff as well as the neighborhood; see also **Public Library** and **School Library Media Center**.

School Library, use **School Library Media Center**

School Library Media Center
a library that supports the curricular needs of and provides its collection, related equipment and the services of a staff to students, teachers, and affiliated staff of a single elementary or secondary school or a combined (elementary and secondary) school. This entity may be called a library, media center, instructional materials center, learning resources center, or combination thereof.

Science Library — a special library focusing on general or specific scientific disciplines (facility name may include a specific scientific discipline, e.g., Biological Science Library or Physics Library); may be associated with an academic library or a special library; see also **Academic Library** and **Special Library**.

Special Library — a library in a business firm, professional association, government agency or other organized group; a library that is maintained by a parent organization to serve a specialized clientele; or an independent, special library that may provide materials or services, or both, to the public, a segment of the public, or to other libraries. Often synonymous with **Information Center**; see also **Art Library, Business Library, Film Library, Law Library, Medical Library, Museum Library, Music Library, Research Library, Science Library, Theological Library**.

State Library — a library maintained with state funds for the use of state officials, employees and the general public of the state; may serve a coordinating function with the state.

Subscription Library — a private library accessible only to subscribers who pay annual dues or subscriptions with title to the property held by the members acting as a single person in the manner of a common-law corporation, not by the members individually; see also Private Library **and Proprietary Library**.

Technical Information Center
a facility providing many of the same types of services as a library but with a specific technical subject or topic focus; often synonymous with **Special Library**; see also **Information Center**; use for **Technical Library**.

Technical Library, use **Technical Information Center.**

Theological Library — a special library focusing on religious and theological information, may be specific to a particular religion or belief system; see also **Special Library**.

Township Library, use **Public Library**.

Toy Library — a library with a collection of toys available for loan.

Undergraduate Library — an academic library focusing on materials and services to undergraduate students; see also **Academic Library, College Library, Department Library, Division Library, Graduate Library and University Library**.

University Library — an academic library focusing on graduate, professional and/or post-graduate studies materials (not a pure distinction, may also include undergraduate materials); see also **Academic Library, College Library, Department Library, Division Library, Graduate Library and Undergraduate Library**.